

wife, Martha Sharp, who were true heroes of the Holocaust who risked their lives to save Jews from the atrocities of the Nazi regime.

The Sharps' incredible story was told this morning at a very moving ceremony at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum where family, friends, and admirers gathered to pay tribute and remember the selfless and laudatory actions of this amazing couple. Their story was also a powerful reminder that all of us have the moral obligation to do anything we can to end violence and genocides where ever and when ever they occur.

On June 13, 2006, the Yad Vashem Holocaust Remembrance Authority in Israel honored the Rev. Waitstill Sharp, and his wife, Martha Sharp, posthumously as "Righteous Among the Nations" for risking their lives to save Jews during the Holocaust. The Sharps are only the second and third Americans to be so honored. Varian Fry, with whom the Sharps worked, was the first.

Our colleagues in the Senate passed a resolution on September 8 of this year honoring the courageous service of the Sharps. My colleague from Massachusetts, where the Sharps once lived, and I soon will introduce similar legislation in the House remembering the Sharps and their story and heroism.

Mr. Speaker, the Sharps left everything behind, including their home and two young children, to answer a call from the American Unitarian Association to go to Czechoslovakia in February of 1939. The Sharps were not content merely to feed the hordes of refugees passing through Czechoslovakia; they also began to assist anti-Nazi dissidents and Jews to escape Nazi oppression. In the very shadow of aggression, they helped thousands flee to safety elsewhere in Europe and the United States.

One month after the Sharps' arrival in Prague, Nazi forces occupied Czechoslovakia, making their work much more dangerous. The Sharps could have escaped, but they refused to leave the refugees helpless. Though the Nazis descended upon the Unitarian mission in Prague, ransacking the office and throwing the furniture into the street, Reverend and Mrs. Sharp continued their mission. They began working out of private residences, boldly defying Nazi restrictions.

The Sharps did whatever was necessary to help Jews and opponents of the Nazi regime to escape Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia, in spite of the considerable risk to their own lives. They entered and exited the border repeatedly, crisscrossed Europe to obtain needed travel documents, even escorted some of their clients by train through Germany itself, all the way to Great Britain. Focused on serving others, the Sharps ignored warning that they were in danger from the Gestapo.

On August 30, 1939, six months after they arrived in Czechoslovakia, the Sharps concluded their first mission and returned to the U.S. Their exit was just one day before Gestapo agents came to arrest Martha, who had earned a reputation for her daring disregard of Nazi rules.

After returning home for two years, the Sharps issued a report with the American Unitarian Association about the dangers faced by refugees all across Europe. As a result of this report, the Sharps were asked to set up a parallel operation in France under the newly founded Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. In 1940, the Sharps answered this call,

courageously returning to Europe to aid more people flee the horror of the Nazi regime.

By the time the Sharps arrived in Europe, the Nazis had already occupied France, but the Sharps were undaunted. They set up the American Unitarian Universalist Service Committee in Lisbon, Portugal, from where they continued to assist many more refugees from war-torn Europe escape to safety.

In all, the Sharps and their Unitarian colleagues worked to save approximately 2,000 men, women, and children.

Mr. Speaker, the Sharps' courageous, sacrificial and selfless example should motivate all of us to do everything we possibly can to prevent the horrors of genocide taking place anywhere on this planet. As the only survivor of the Holocaust in Congress, I have a special commitment to raising this.

This morning's ceremony at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum concluded with a visit to the special exhibit on Darfur, Sudan. We were reminded that when the horrors of the Holocaust were made public, we often heard the phrase "Never Again!" But since World War II we have seen such genocidal tragedies occur in Cambodia, Rwanda, and now Darfur.

The most moving and important message from the story of the Sharps is that they had the foresight and courage to leave their children and comfortable home behind—not just once, but twice—to go to the dangerous, gray, uncertain war zone of Europe to save people they probably did not even know. Their first trip was just days after *kristallnacht*, when the persecution of the Jews was just beginning to get more violent and ugly. Concentration camps were not yet even a glint in the Nazis' eyes.

Mr. Speaker, the Sharps, and those who helped them to be able to do this, deserve the gratitude and admiration of all of us. Each and every one of us should make every effort to learn more about the wars and genocide occurring around the globe this very day, strive to have the courage of the Sharps, and act with equal resolve to do everything each of us can do to stop these horrors.

I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this selfless and dedicated couple, whose response to the Holocaust and to inhumanity and brutality is one that men and women everywhere should emulate.

HONORING PFC. TRAVIS CLYDE ZIMMERMAN

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an American hero, Pfc. Travis Clyde Zimmerman, who died on April 22, 2006 while serving his country in Iraq.

Pfc. Zimmerman was on a combat reconnaissance operation when an improvised explosive device exploded near his observation post. This young man's high school goal, as stated in his yearbook, was to serve in the United States Army. Neighbors, friends, and former teachers have all testified that Travis was a courteous, cooperative, and compassionate young man. Dr. Harry Morgan, the Boyertown School District Superintendent, told students that Travis's death "was a great loss

to the family and the community and our sympathy goes out to them. We are grateful for his service to our county."

Travis was a life-long resident of Boyertown, Pennsylvania and is the son of Gail Camperson and Lloyd Zimmerman. After Travis's graduation in June of 2005, he attended basic training and then joined the Army's 101st Airborne unit. Travis's unit deployed to Iraq in February 2006.

Scarlett Kulp, Travis's life long friend, wanted to make sure that the community did not forget the commitment and sacrifice he made to serve his country. Scarlett took action and worked with the local community to create a memorial fund to honor Pfc. Zimmerman and other local military heroes. Local schools took Scarlett's lead and held events such as "Hats Off to Travis Day" at Colebrookdale Elementary School, Travis's elementary school from kindergarten to sixth grade. The students and staff at Boyertown Jr. High West and the Senior High-School held tributes and helped Scarlett gather funds for the memorial military bear statue.

By Memorial Day weekend, Scarlett, with the help of the community, had raised enough money to order a six-foot military bear statue and create the "Pfc. Travis Zimmerman Memorial Fund". This permanent fund will not only provide for the cost of the creation and maintenance of the memorial, but it will also help area military personnel as they readjust to civilian life upon their return from services overseas.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in paying honor to a hometown hero, Pfc. Travis Zimmerman, as his community honors him and other service members during the September 17, 2006 Hometown Heroes parade and ceremony. Heartiest congratulations, out to all the individuals who have helped to make this lasting memorial possible, and our utmost gratitude and respect conveyed to Travis's family for his unflinching devotion and sacrifice for our nation.

A TRIBUTE TO GOVERNOR ANN RICHARDS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart on the passing of my dear, trusted and longtime beloved friend, the late Governor Ann Richards. I also rise to pay tribute to her many contributions and her sincere dedication of public service to our great State of Texas and to extend my deepest sympathies to her family and friends everywhere who share in my sadness.

I not only lost an esteemed colleague with whom I could always count on for support, since so often we agreed on social and political issues, but also a dear and trusted friend whom I shared many fond moments and with whom I shared a vision for our great State of Texas.

Our friendship expanded more than 40 years; I first met Ann when she lived in Dallas before moving to Austin where she ran for Travis County Commissioner in 1976 and I was elected to serve at the Texas House of

Representatives. Our first taste of government was as outsiders and sideline players who were mainly called upon to help others win the races. Texas in the 70's wasn't open to allowing women a seat at the political table so our admittance was earned vote by vote. As women in Texas politics, we shared the same struggles and the many sacrifices which are often not asked of men in politics.

In her popular address to the Girls State in 1993, she commented that 'as a woman you cannot count on Prince Charming to make you feel better about yourself or to take care of you, like some funhouse mirror that reflects you at twice your real size because Prince Charming may be driving a Honda and telling you that you have no equal ...but that won't do you much good when you've got kids and a mortgage. . . and he has a beer gut and a wandering eye.'

Ann believed in telling people the truth, especially young girls who were in danger of not maximizing their full potential. For those of us who knew Ann, she would be pleased that her many distinguished accomplishments as a woman in the male dominated Texas politics represented a beacon of hope to many young women who shared her unconventional aspirations.

In 1982 when a seat opened as the State Treasurer, Ann sought the Democratic nomination after the incumbent withdrew from the race. As State Treasurer and as a true pragmatist with a keen eye for technology, she transformed the Texas Treasury into a modern operation which encompassed electronic funds transfer, modernized investments and cash management systems. Along the way, Ann earned the respect and admiration of the business community who appreciated her foresight and vision.

In 1990 as the first woman Governor of Texas in 50 years, Ann aligned herself with the late Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock and Comptroller John Sharp and together formalized a statewide performance review of agencies that inevitably led to much needed recommendations for change.

In her tenure as Governor she was adamant about appointing minorities on state boards and commissions. Ann wanted Texas Government to reflect the people of the State and was proud of the rich cultural and vast diversity engrained in every corner of Texas.

Ann is survived by her four children: Cecile, Daniel, Clark and Ellen and their spouses: Kirk Adams, Linda Richards, Sharon Zeugin and Greg Johnson and her much beloved eight grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker in closing, it is worthy to mention Ann's legacy as an independent thinker, a strong-minded and compassionate woman with a sharp wit and charming personality who loved her State and the people of Texas so much she dedicated 12 years of her life to serve them. I am saddened at the loss of Governor Ann Richards but I am certain that her legacy will live in the minds and hearts of young women everywhere who now have Ann to remind them that there is nothing as women they cannot accomplish.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF PRESTON ROBERT TISCH

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 605, a resolution recognizing the life of Preston Robert Tisch and his outstanding contributions to New York City, the New York Giants Football Club, the National Football League, and the United States. Mr. Tisch died, at the age of 79, on November 15, 2005, at his home in Manhattan, New York. The cause of his demise was a brain tumor, as said Jeffrey Stewart, spokesman for the family. New Yorkers knew Mr. Tisch as Bob and will always remember his stupendous economic support and leadership on several civic initiatives committed to the betterment of the city.

Having made his fortune from the real estate business in New York, Bob Tisch was a dedicated man who truly loved this city and exemplified the belief that the prime responsibility and highest calling of those fortunate enough to have achieved financial security was to use the resources and capacity to improve the lives of other people. Many New Yorkers were helped by the generosity of Mr. Tisch's civic commitment.

In May 2005, Mr. Tisch was interviewed for the online edition of Education Update magazine by Joan Baum, Ph.D. Dr. Baum described him as an "extraordinary life of public service and philanthropy". Mr. Tisch's service as Postmaster General of the United States in the 90s was mentioned. As well as his participation in a partnership program to fund community programs, sitting on the board as a founding member of Citymeals-on-wheels, and as an essential driving force behind the new Giants Stadium.

In 2000, Mr. Tisch founded a program known as "Take the Field", which benefited public schools by restoring athletic fields in New York to provide spaces for children to both practice and play. Since its inception "Take the Field" has already successfully restored 41 of 43 athletic fields in New York. By May 2005 Mr. Tisch's efforts had raised \$135 million in private and public funds for "Take the Field." Ernie Accorsi, Giants General Manager, 1998-present stated: "Bob Tisch was a historic man in New York City history. His contributions ranged from government, both National and local, to the entertainment world to the sports world, but most important, to incredible charitable acts. His 'Take the Field' program was one of the most innovative and beautiful efforts in athletics in this country. But in addition to these things and to his co-ownership of one of the great franchises in American sport, in addition to his brilliance and dynamic New York presence, was the soul of a good and decent man who cared about people and did countless deeds to help those less fortunate, acts which never received notice."

Mr. Tisch wanted to improve health and increase the academic performance of not only students, but also of the communities as well. Mr. Tisch was very interested in education.

Evidence of this is the Tisch School of the Arts and the Preston Robert Tisch Center for Hospitality, Tourism and Sports at New York University.

Mr. Tisch also served as Mayor David N. Dinkins "ambassador" to Washington, he was chairman of host committees for the 1976 and 1980 Democratic National Conventions, and also led the way in building a new convention center on Manhattan's West Side. He was the Chairman and Director of the Loews Corporation, one of the country's most successful financial companies.

In 1991 he purchased the New York Giants and loved to attend practices and share opinions with coaches. Mr. Tisch improved the Giant's business by sharpening the team's marketing strategies. As a member of the National Football League's Finance and Super Bowl Policy Committees, Mr. Tisch attained prominence in the sports arena equal to his position in the world of business.

We all mourn the loss of Bob Tisch, who left an indelible mark on our society. He will always be alive in our hearts and minds. As a friend, I will greatly miss a remarkable man whose companionship I treasured, and whose energetic, enthusiastic, and enormously big heart will never be forgotten.

RECOGNITION OF THE PEOPLE'S COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH 28TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the People's Community Baptist Church, which is located within my congressional district, on its 28th anniversary, which will be celebrated September 15-17, 2006.

Since its founding in 1978, the People's Community Baptist Church has established a legacy built on spiritual empowerment, social action and community outreach. Its outstanding leadership in the community has touched lives throughout Montgomery County, Maryland and beyond.

With the strong foundation laid by the late Reverend Dr. Thomas Jeremiah Baltimore, this ministry has shown benevolence through ministries such as the Social Action Agency, a church ministry that addresses social concerns of the community in all areas affecting quality of life. Under its umbrella, numerous initiatives have been started, including family health programs, Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous chapter meetings, cancer support groups, voter registration drives, and the SHARE program (low-cost monthly food distribution). A prison ministry was also begun, bringing the message of hope and redemption to the incarcerated.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent this progressive and distinguished ministry and extend my best wishes for continued success to The People's Community Baptist Church on this special occasion.